

**From:** John Balch <[chris1953balch@gmail.com](mailto:chris1953balch@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** Monroe, Pamela  
**Subject:** Northern Pass - Reasons to be opposed.

John Balch  
531 Lyndeborough CTR RD  
Wilton, NH 03086

September 22, 2017

Dear Pamela Monroe,

My name is Chris Balch. I live in Wilton, NH. I am a retired science teacher – I taught biological, chemical and physical science in both public and private schools for 40 years. I'm writing today to share thoughts about the impact the Northern Pass project will have on the Granite State and her residents.

In 1987, I began teaching my students about global warming and climate change. We explored the alternatives available and under development to produce needed energy, but that would not encroach on or destroy our remaining natural areas. My students were concerned by the climate trends presented, and hopeful about the alternatives. Today, 30 years later, their hopes, and the hopes of all concerned people are once again dashed as a NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) holds hearings for another project that is a major investment in the current energy infrastructure instead of investing in the now available green options.

Currently 37 towns on the Northern Pass' planned route are opposed to it. Impacts of great concern include:

- Unsightly towers, right-of-ways, and construction both here and of the Canadian hydro-station reservoirs.
- The drowning of Canadian forests from the damming and construction of new and future hydro-electric plants. This results in the release of thousands of tons of methane, the most potent greenhouse gas on the planet.
- Negative health effects from the electro-magnetic radiation on people living nearby and on wildlife.
- Wildlife habitat disruption and destruction. Specific impacts on Endangered and Threatened species such as the bald eagle, Indiana bat, gray wolf, eastern cougar, Canada lynx\*. Also, impacts on endangered and sensitive plants\* such as pogonia, arnica, dwarf white birch, pond reed bent-grass, alpine bitter cress, bailey's sedge, piled-up sedge, wiegand's sedge, squirrel corn, goldie's woodfern, oakes' eyebright, and well over an additional 100 species of plants and animals.

Questions I have for the SEC and EverSource:

- Will the bulldozer operators, the groundworkers, the other large machinery operators be trained to recognize the species listed above? If so, will they halt construction in accord with federal regulations when an unsurveyed group of threatened or endangered species are encountered?
- One bulldozer operator testified at a July SEC hearing that workers will walk ahead of the bulldozers and "shoo the animals and snakes out of the way." How do you shoo endangered plants?
- Does Eversource, a Texas based company, really care about our unique state, its wildlife and people? Or do they simply care about profit?
- Will Hydro-Quebec, a company that willingly drowns thousands of acres of forestland in its own homeland, suddenly develop a conscience and desire to protect when it comes to our forests?

I strongly urge everyone to vote NO, not only to Northern Pass, but to every other current energy/fossil fuel infrastructure investment. By doing so we force the utility companies to invest in green options and preserve the beauty and environmental health of our state for the present and our future generations.

Thank you,  
Chris Balch

Wilton, NH

\* Source: United States Forest Service Biological Evaluation of White Mountain National Forest and environs.

Sincerely,  
John Balch